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The WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

A Vista in the Cascades

FOREST SERVICE U S DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

A MOUNTAIN VACATION LAND

Mount Baker by moonlight.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

SIX RULES FOR SPORTSMEN

1. *Be a real sportsman.*—There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit.

2. *Make sure it's a buck.*—If you can't see his horns—she hasn't got any.

3. *Help to enforce the game law.*—Game and fish are public property—only a game hog will take more than his fair and legal share. Violations should be reported to the nearest deputy warden, forest ranger, or game protective association.

4. *Respect the ranchman's property.*—He regards the man who leaves his gates open, cuts his fences, disturbs his live stock, or shoots near his dwellings, as an outlaw. Put yourself in his place.

5. *Be careful with your camp fire and matches.*—One tree will make a million matches; one match can burn a million trees.

6. *Leave a clean camp and a clean record.*—Unburied garbage, crippled game, and broken laws are poor monuments for a sportsman to leave behind him.

If you cut the trees around the camping ground, you will soon be camping on a woodpile instead of in a cool, clean Forest.

SIX RULES FOR PREVENTION OF FIRES

Obtain a camp-fire permit before starting on your trip. It is required by Forest regulations and the State law.

1. *Matches.*—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.

2. *Tobacco.*—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stumps in the dust of the road and stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.

3. *Making camp.*—Build a small camp fire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away the trash from around it.

4. *Leaving camp.*—Never leave a camp fire, even for a short time, without quenching it with water and earth.

5. *Bonfires.*—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.

6. *Fighting fires.*—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word of it to the nearest U. S. Forest ranger or State fire warden at once. Keep in touch with the rangers.

It's your National Forest and your playground—help protect it from fire.

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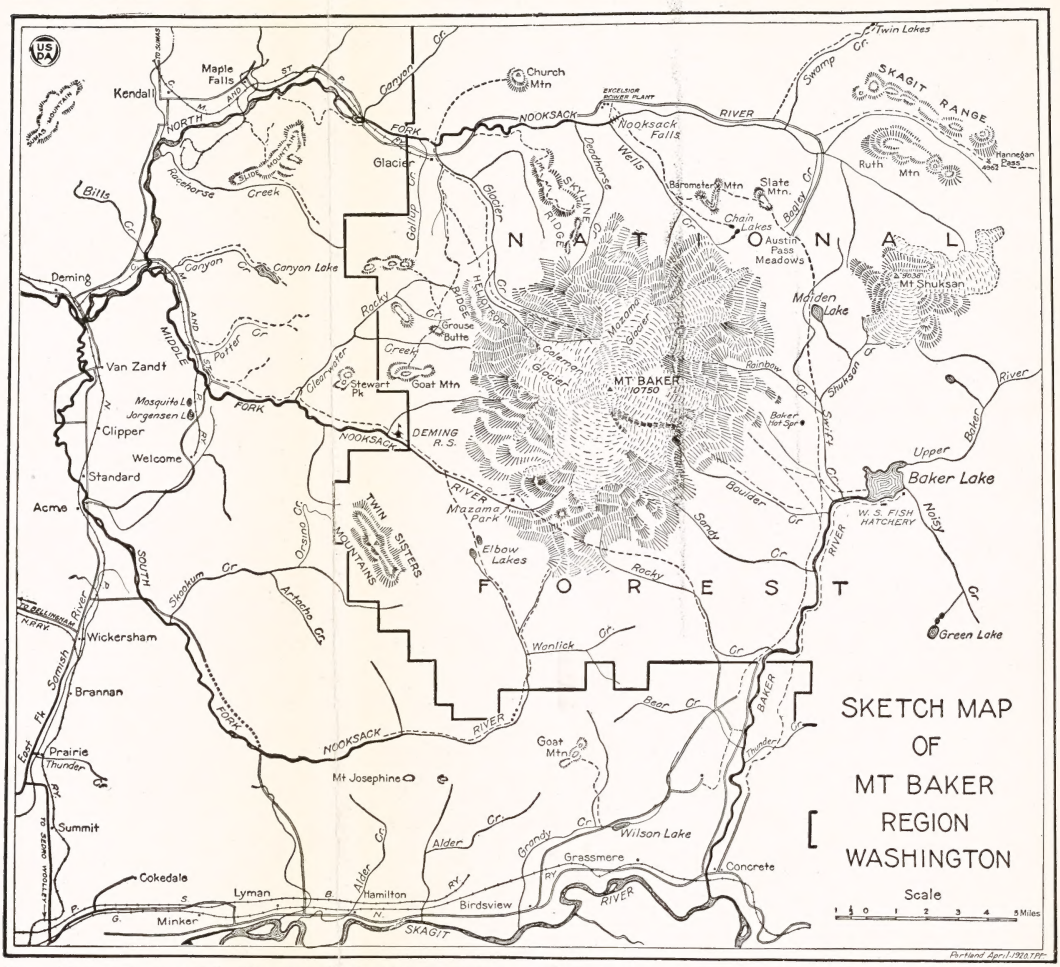
United States Department of Agriculture
Department Circular 132
Revised—1923

PREVENT FOREST FIRES—IT PAYS



Mount Baker may be approached on three sides. Those wishing to reach its summit had best go in by way of Deming, although it can also be climbed on the north and south sides.

: : KEEP THE FORESTS GREEN : :

The Washington National Forest

IN THE extreme northwestern part of the United States, overlooking the restless waters of Puget Sound, which, driven by the tides of the Pacific, race backward and forward amid a constellation of beautiful islands, lies an untamed mountain wilderness—one of the few remaining strongholds of nature. There in the Washington National Forest one may lose himself for weeks in the hills and give himself up to the enjoyments which they afford.

"Race backward and forward amid a constellation of beautiful islands"

The Mount Baker Region

The outstanding features of the Washington National Forest are Mount Baker, unsurpassed throughout the entire Cascade Range for the magnificence and variety of its glacial formations, and the gently rolling stretches of verdant mountain meadow which blanket the summit of the divide in the Upper Skagit River region. Between them unfolds a vast uplifted wilderness, a wide-flung advance of snow-clad peaks, dotted with mirrorlike lakes and separated by narrow shoe-string valleys the sides of which are gashed with narrow canyons cut by sparkling cataracts.

The excessive rainfall of the Pacific slope nourishes a dense plant and forest growth. There are few open places below an elevation of 4,500 feet, and the thick

"Between them unfolds a vast uplifted wilderness"

undergrowth, together with the roughness of the country, renders travel very difficult where there are no trails. Perhaps one-third of the northern half of the Washington Forest is above timber line. On the whole it is a richly watered region, and one singularly free from venemous insects or reptiles which might mar the enjoyment of the tourist.

There are few roads within the Washington Forest as yet. Many of its beauty spots are reached by trail only. It appeals to those who seek the recreational frontier. The voice of this Forest is the cry of Nature

"Gently rolling stretches of verdant mountain meadows"

calling man from the common life to some of the realities of its sterner existence. It invites the tourist but warns him not to come dressed in his parlor clothes.

Mount Baker, the "Koma Kulshan" of the Indians, known to early Spanish navigators but named by Captain

Vancouver, is a practically extinct volcano 10,730 feet in height. It was first ascended by the Coleman party in 1869. The mountain is incrusted with snow and ice, surrounded by green meadows, a region of irresistible interest to the mountaineer, geologist, botanist, and nature lover. Faint sulphur fumes still rise from the crater.

Mount Baker

Mount Baker may be ascended on three sides. The climbing season runs from July 15 to September 30, August being the best month.

From Glacier, on the north side, which is reached in 1½ hours via automobile road from Bellingham, a trail leads to Heliotrope Ridge, 10 miles distant. This is a grassy divide of about 3 acres which thrusts itself into the heart of Roosevelt Glacier, with the great white dome of the mountain towering above. The summit can be reached from this point.

"Across it on a summer evening is cast a perfect likeness of the great mountain"

Seven miles east of Glacier is the Nooksack Falls power plant, where the river forms a cataract more than 100 feet high.

At the Three-Mile board a trail ascends to Sky Line Ridge, 6,500 feet in elevation, where it is lost in the rolling meadows, dotted with clumps of alpine fir which shield the tents of the campers.

Formations resembling cliff dwellings on the slopes of Mount Baker

Many prefer to ascend Mount Baker from the west side at Mazama Park. Here there is a cabin shelter free to visitors, and the round trip to the summit can be made in from 8 to 12 hours. Easton and Deming Glaciers are

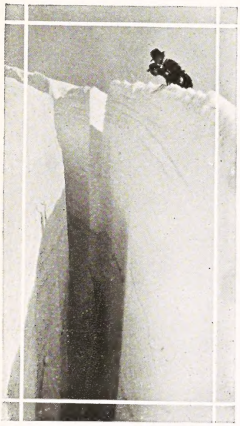
Mount Baker and the Twin Sisters

within easy walking distance from Mazama Park. There is a good automobile road from Deming to Heisler Ranch, from which point Mazama Park is distant 16 miles by trail.

The east side of Mount Baker is accessible from Concrete, but owing to the long distance by trail, few people ascend from this point.

Baker Lake, which has the largest sockeye salmon hatchery in the United States, is 17 miles above

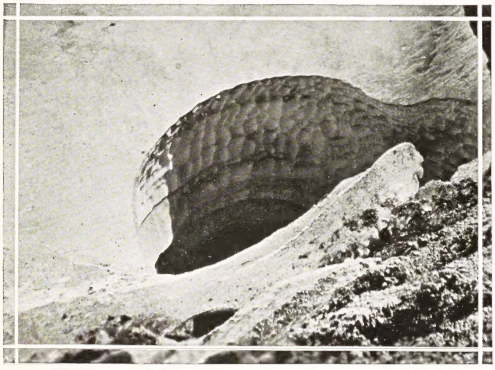
Concrete. Across it on a summer evening is cast a perfect likeness of the great mountain.



Crevasse on Mount Baker

Five miles to the northwest is the Baker Hot Spring, a sulphurous flow boiling from the subterranean depths of the distant crater at a temperature of 112° F. This spring is hidden beneath the shadow of great trees and has been improved by the construction of an open swimming pool.

Only experienced mountaineers should attempt to reach the summit of Mount Baker without a guide. The climb from Mazama Park is not a hard one, and mixed parties of 25 or 30 have made the ascent. Guides can be secured at Deming, Glacier, or Concrete, and would-be climbers should plan to spend a week in the vicinity of the mountain to allow for possible cloudy days.



Looking into the crater of Mount Baker

Table Mountain, at the gateway of the Chain Lakes Region, is a striking formation

The Upper Skagit Country

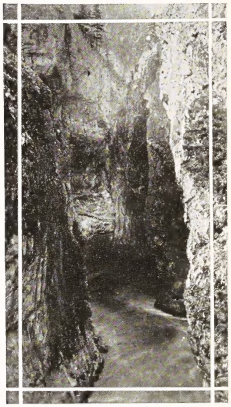
The Upper Skagit River country offers attractions of a different type. Here is a paradise for the angler, the main river and its tributaries abounding in Dolly Varden, rainbow, and cutthroat trout, which may be taken in season.

Ruby Creek and its headwaters near the summit of the Cascades is a mineralized district, a storied land of early placer discoveries, lost mines, and mythical veins. It contains the ruins of many abandoned camps, waterworks, and stamp mills, while the mountain side is pierced by frequent tunnels. Future transportation may bring to this district another season of prosperity.

The mountain meadows along the summit of the Cascade Range present a broad expanse of rolling grassland dotted with timber clumps, easily traveled on horseback, and a charming spot in which to spend a fall vacation. It is a rich grazing ground for several bands of sheep which graze under Forest Service regulation, coming in from the east side of the mountains.

The Upper Skagit River country is reached over the county road coming up the Skagit Valley from Sedro-

Woolley, and an automobile can proceed to a point 5 miles above Marblemount; or visitors may come on the Rockport Branch of the Great Northern Railroad to Rockport, where there is a hotel, and from which point the City of Seattle Railroad runs to Newholem, its construction camp at the mouth of Goodell Creek. Pack horses can be obtained at Marblemount, where there is a hotel. There are road houses farther up the river at the mouths of Bacon, Goodell, Stetattle, and Ruby Creeks, where meals and lodging can be obtained.



The foaming waters race through the chasm below

From the end of the railroad to the mouth of Ruby Creek tourists must traverse the "Goat Trail," so named after the manner in which it skirts the face of the cliffs high up on the mountain side, with the foaming waters racing through the chasm below. At the Devils Elbow a notch has been blasted out of the solid face of the rock.

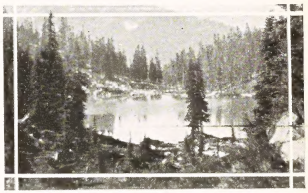
Just below Ruby Creek the canyon narrows to a width of less than 10 feet, with overhanging walls 150 feet high, through which the water surges into a great rock-walled pool.

Thunder Creek suspension bridge

The best fishing is found in the main river, Big Beaver Creek below the falls, Lightning Creek, Devils Creek, and Ruby Creek, and he is indeed a poor disciple of Izaak Walton who can not bring home the legal limit.

The valley of the Skagit is comparatively wide above Ruby Creek, and there are many delightful camping places along the river. A trip to Jack Mountain Meadows is well worth while, for it commands a magnificent view of the valley and the barrier of rocky and snow-capped peaks which hem it in.

All the main watersheds are traversed by trails with signboards to indicate the distance traveled and intersecting points of interest. Substantial bridges have been thrown across the larger streams. At intervals along the main trails camping shelters have been built to accommodate from 6 to 12 people, equipped with fireplaces, tables, and with running water near by.

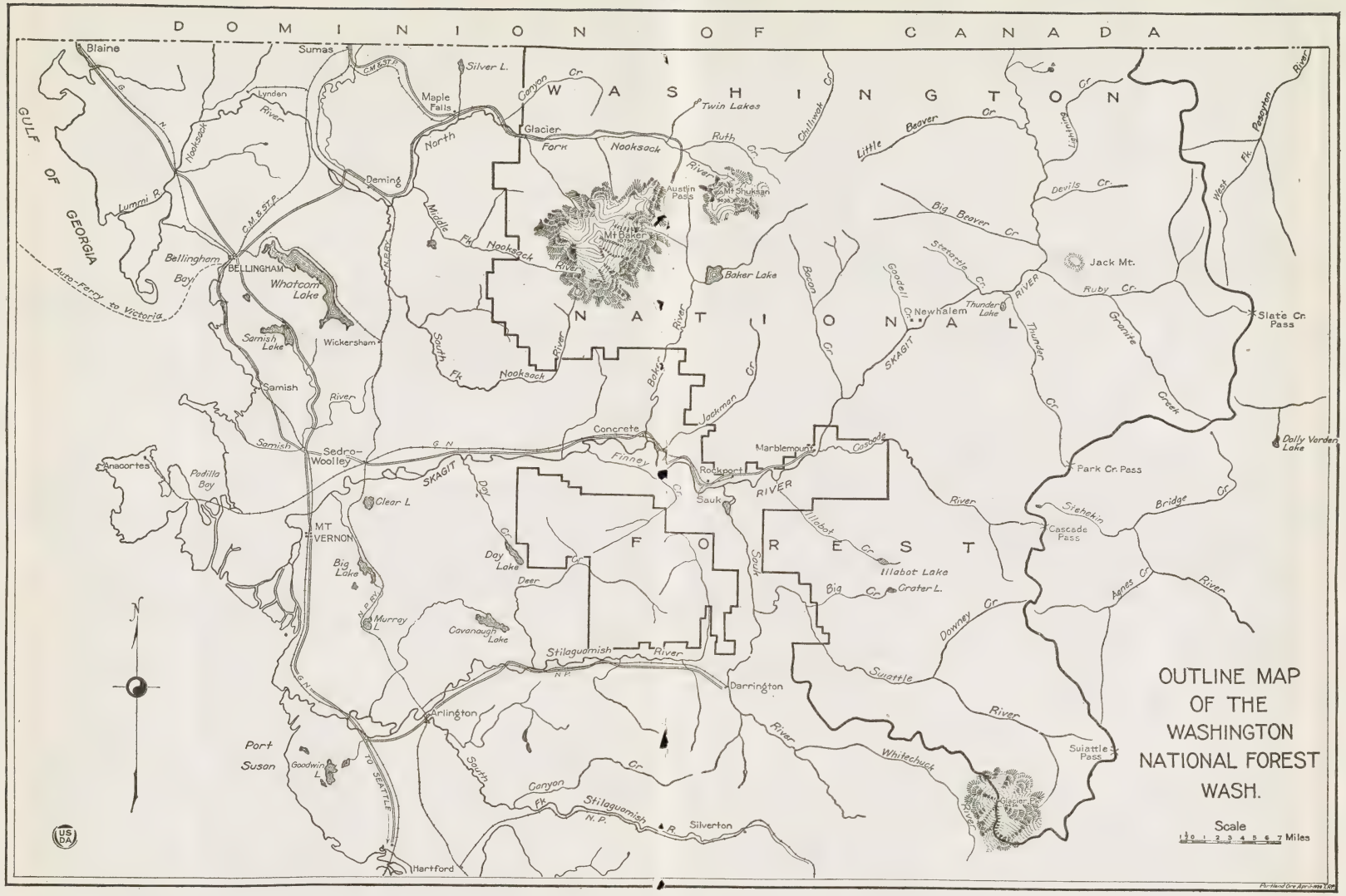


Lakes fringed with alpine firs

Nestling in the folds of the mountains at high elevations are many tiny lakes fringed with alpine firs.

Typical mountain-goat country. This "stairway" has been used for centuries as a highway over the mountain. The path worn by the goats is from 10 to 12 feet wide

The Washington National Forest covers one million four hundred and ninety thousand acres lying on the west slope of the Cascade Mountains overlooking Puget Sound directly south of the international boundary in northwestern Washington.



The freedom of the mountains and the wilderness, good hunting and fishing, and pleasant camping places make the Washington National Forest ideal country for a vacation. Go where you like and stay as long as you please. Be careful with fire.

Wild Life

The Washington Forest abounds in wild life. Among the larger animals are the cougar, wildcat, marmot, black-tailed deer, black bear, and mountain goat. Bird life is represented by the sooty or blue grouse, Oregon ruffed grouse, white-tailed ptarmigan, American osprey, golden eagle, and bald eagle. The chief fur-bearing animals are beaver, marten, lynx, fisher, and otter. In the streams are found Dolly Varden or bull trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, and in the smaller clear streams a variety of the rainbow known as the black-spotted trout. In addition to these native fish, Lake Chelan trout have been planted in some of the smaller lakes.

Ruffed grouse.

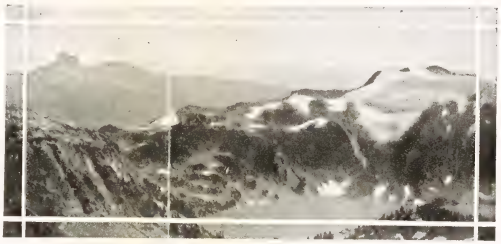
That portion of Whatcom County inside the Washington Forest has been set aside as a game preserve in which the hunting of game animals, i. e., bear, deer, and mountain goat, is prohibited for a period of five years, ending September 1, 1924. However, the State game laws do not prohibit hunting with a camera.

Mountain goat

Let's keep our National Forests as we do our lawns, not as we do our city dumps.

Shorter Fishing Trips

The Washington Forest offers many opportunities for short fishing trips. The South Fork of the Nooksack is a particularly favored spot for a 5-day outing. This trip should be made by way of Deming.



A typical mountain lake

The mouth of Illabot Creek is reached by automobile, after crossing the Skagit River at Rockport, and there is fine sport here, as well as in Illabot Lake, 10 miles upstream.

Camping party in the Upper Skagit country

There is fairly good fishing in Finney Creek, which may be reached from Sauk over a 5-mile trail.

Fishing within the main Skagit River and its tributaries below Goodell Creek is not good.

Dolly Varden and rainbow trout and whitefish are found in Baker Lake, but on the whole the streams in this watershed, owing to glacial water, do not offer a strong attraction to the angler.

The Suiattle River and its tributaries are splendid streams very little fished owing to the difficulty of getting across the Sauk River. The Forest Service has a rowboat here, and frequently arrangements can be made with forest officers for a crossing.

Park Creek Pass—a mighty notch, with Storm King and Logan Peak towering on either side

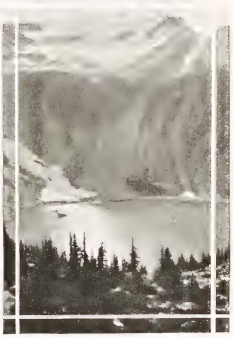
Fishing in the North Fork of the Nooksack and its tributaries east of Glacier is not so good. However, the streams here are being stocked and will be right in a few years.

The Mountain Portals

Along the summit of the Cascades are many picturesque mountain passes, the gateways into western Washington.

By far the most striking is Park Creek Pass, at the head of Thunder Creek, resembling a great notch cut by the hand of a giant, with Storm King and Logan Peak towering aloft on either side.

The Lake Chelan country may also be reached by way of Cascade Pass, which is the most direct route. Persons desiring to make this trip can secure provisions at Rockport and comfortably make the journey on foot from Marblemount to Lake Chelan in four days. Lost Lake basin just beyond Cascade Pass is a formation of fascinating beauty.



Mirror Lake

The longest intermountain journey through the Washington Forest, however, is by way of Slate Creek Pass at the head of Ruby Creek, which leads into the Okanogan Valley country. Here the tourist is well repaid for his time and energy, as the route passes through the Skagit River canyon and through a mountain meadow country of unsurpassing beauty.

The trails leading to all these passes are in first-class condition, but they are usually free from snow on the summit only between July 1 and October 31. Late seasons are frequent, however, and tourists will do well to secure definite information from the forest supervisor before undertaking an intermountain trip early in July or late in October.

Take care of your fire and be sure that it is entirely out before you leave. Set an example for the other fellow.

There are tourist registers at the main camping grounds where you can sign your name.

Where forest and glacier meet. Mount Shuksan from Sunrise Lake.

Austin Pass Meadows

Recent highway construction has made the Austin Pass meadow region easily accessible. This hitherto little known section of the Washington Forest, which promises to become a popular mountain playground, is reached by the new Mount Baker Highway, which leaves the main Pacific Highway at Bellingham, a few miles above the point where the latter skirts the waters of Puget Sound along Chuckanut Drive. The trip from Bellingham to the terminus of the mountain road in Austin Pass Meadows requires about two and one-half hours. From Bellingham an auto ferry, operated by the Canadian Pacific Railroad, connects the Mount Baker Highway with Victoria and other Vancouver Island points.

The Mount Baker Highway enters the Washington Forest at the town of Glacier, and follows the timbered valley of North Fork of the Nooksack River for 14 miles to the old mining camp at Shuksan. Seven miles from Glacier it passes Nooksack Falls, a dashing cataract over 100 feet high, just below which the Forest Service has located the Cottonwood Camp Grounds. Tables and fireplaces have been provided, both as an accommodation to tourists and for fire prevention. A similar camp ground is located at Riverside, just outside the town limits of Glacier. At Shuksan the Mount Baker Highway turns southward and climbs abruptly into the meadows of Austin Pass.

These meadows lie in the midst of the Cascade Mountains at a point where they reach their greatest lateral development, it being fully 60 miles, as the crow flies, from the foothills on the west to those on the east. About 50 per cent of this region is above timber line. Trails penetrate the main watersheds and over the main divides, that of Whatcom Pass being flanked by a huge glacier whose cool breath fans the face of the traveler. From Shuksan trails radiate to many points of interest, such as Twin Lakes Pass, Welcome Pass, Hannegan Pass, and the Lone Jack mine.

Gladstone's Head—Massive profile sternly gazing from its lofty perch.

At one time the Austin Pass country was at sea level. This fact is evidenced by the miocene clams and oysters which have recently been discovered at an elevation of 6,000 feet. Mount Shuksan, hitherto but little known, has been aptly termed the most picturesque mountain in America. This mountain was formed as the earth cooled and was driven skyward by the pent energy which later raised Mount Baker by wave upon wave of flowing lava.

The close proximity of these two mountains, so strangely unlike, so different in formation, but each so fascinating in its own way, offers a scenic contrast not found elsewhere. Mount Baker is covered by 44 square miles of ice fields and has 12 glaciers. Mount Shuksan bares its summit to the clouds, a sharp, rocky pinnacle 1,000 feet above the mountain itself. It is characterized by snow-filled gorges, frowning crags, massive rock faces, swiftly moving shadows, and trickling waterfalls. Not until 1906 was its summit conquered, although the difficult ascent may be made from Austin Pass in a single day. To climb Mount Baker from the Pass, however, requires a three-day trip, a one-night stop being made on a shoulder of the mountain.

The "Stone Quarry."

Roosevelt Glacier, one of the twelve.

At the foot of Mount Baker nestle the beautiful Chain Lakes.

Between these two peaks lie the Meadows, green with heather and native plants, dotted with clumps of mountain hemlock, enriched in the fall by a riotous medley of colors. The Meadows have an area of about 1,000 acres, a big outdoor playground, including a number of small lakes which are being developed for both summer and winter sports. At the foot of Mount Baker, about 3 miles

"Seven Up"—En route to Summit of Mount Baker.

from the Meadows, nestle the beautiful Chain Lakes, perhaps after all the most delightful scenic gem of the entire region. The palisades of Table Mountain are reflected in their placid depths on one side, while opposite a wooded mountain park gently slopes to their tideless shores. There are three of these lakes, the largest containing about 60 acres.

A sheltered nook on the great outdoor playground at Austin Pass.

Among the interesting freaks of nature to be found is "Gladstone's Head," a massive profile sternly gazing afar from its lofty perch on the side of a mountain ridge. The

A huge glacier whose cool breath fans the face of the traveler.

"stone quarry," a peculiar rock formation near the shores of Bagley Lake, where the action of the elements has produced a great quantity of building blocks of the same size and shape, has more than a passing interest.

With the completion of the Mount Baker Highway, arrangements will be made to care for the many tourists who will visit this new wonderland. Permits have been granted by the Government for the erection of a hotel, store, and gas-filling station. Public camp grounds will be established, tables and fireplaces built, and surrounding points of interest rendered easily accessible by the construction of trails.

The palisades of Table Mountain are reflected in their placid depths.

Keep the Forest Green

The Washington National Forest is essentially a timber reservoir. It holds a portion of the future supply which, because of remoteness, has been little logged as yet. At present its recreational resource is perhaps of greatest interest to the average citizen, who is invited to come and enjoy that resource to the utmost. At the same time he is cautioned to be careful always with fire. There has been no devastating blaze for a long time. Each year sees the forest greener than it was before. No small part of this favorable condition is due to the cooperation of the public. Such cooperation is appreciated. Forest field officers will gladly render tourists all assistance compatible with the performance of their duties, and they hope that visitors will in turn lighten the burden of those duties as much as possible during the fire season by thoughtfulness in the many little things which go to prevent the escape of fire. A good motto for the camper is:

"The words were God's first temples." Crosses tip the points of spired alpine firs.

LEAVE A DEAD FIRE AND A CLEAN CAMP

The Forest Service has spent considerable time and money putting up signs for the benefit of the public; please leave them unmutilated and undisturbed.

When you clean your fish don't throw the refuse in the streams; some one may be camped below you, or you may sometime wish to camp below on this same stream. Hundreds of people get their drinking water from the streams on the National Forests. Bury all camp refuse and body excrement. Obey the well-recognized laws of ordinary sanitation.

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